
2008 – 2009 NEW APPLICANT FACT SHEET

The Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program (Byrd Scholarship) is a federally funded program designed to promote student excellence and achievement. These scholarships are awarded solely on the basis of academic merit to recognize students who show promise of continued academic excellence. The Byrd Scholarship is administered by the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) for the California Department of Education (CDE). Selected students must enroll in and attend a U.S. institution of higher education full-time beginning in the fall term of the 2008-2009 academic year. This \$1,500 scholarship award for 2008-2009 may be renewed for up to four years. The Byrd Scholarship is supported entirely by federal funding and is subject to federal budget appropriations. Federal funding may affect both new and renewal awards, if funding authorization is reduced or not approved for the fiscal year.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To meet eligibility requirements, federal law requires that an applicant must:

- Be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen. (see the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program Application form, item # 9)
Note: If the applicant is an eligible noncitizen, documentation from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services must accompany the application.
- Be a legal resident of California (see the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program Application form, item # 10)
- Meet all graduation requirements and graduate from a public or private secondary school between 7-1-2007 and 6-30-2008 or receive the equivalent of a certificate of graduation as recognized by the CDE between 7-1-2007 and 4-1-2008.
- Enroll in and attend an eligible U.S. postsecondary public or private institution on a full-time basis during the fall term of the 2008-2009 academic year.
- Be considered a freshman beginning in the fall term of the 2008-2009 academic year.
- Have registered with the U.S. Selective Service System, unless the postsecondary institution certifies that the applicant is not required to register.
- Submit a Certification of Eligibility for Federal Assistance in Certain Programs Form ED 80-0016, attesting to the fact that the student is not delinquent or in default on a federal grant or education loan with the application.

HOW TO APPLY

Eligible high school students currently enrolled in a California high school must apply through their designated high school Byrd scholarship coordinator. Applicants currently enrolled in high school must adhere to the application deadlines set by their high school campus for the Byrd Scholarship since all nomination packages must be submitted by the designated high school coordinator.

Eligible students who meet the above requirements **and who are not currently** attending a California high school should obtain and submit a completed application package directly to the California Student Aid Commission, Attn: Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 419029, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9029. The 2008-2009 Byrd Scholarship applications are available on the Commission's Web site at www.csac.ca.gov.

NOMINATION PROCESS AND DEADLINE

Process: Each California public or private secondary education institution may nominate up to two (2) applicants. All high schools wishing to nominate students for the Byrd scholarship must submit completed application materials for each applicant. A complete application package must include:

- Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program Nomination Form for California, GPA/Test Score Verification Form (G-190/G-194)
- Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program Application (G-192)
- Certification of Eligibility for Federal Assistance in Certain Programs Form ED 80-0016 (back of application)

Deadline: All completed application materials **must be postmarked by APRIL 30, 2008**, and sent to the Commission at P.O. Box 419029, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9029.

NOTE: Late or incomplete applications will not be considered in the ranking process.

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SELECTION AND AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Commission will review all nominations and rank eligible applicants by GPA/converted GED scores (using SAT and/or ACT scores as tie breakers). The Commission will announce selected students for the Byrd Scholarship before the end of the school year, if federal funds are authorized. The institution and the students will receive notification of their award status.

Selected students will receive their award (each academic term) through their postsecondary institution's financial aid office. **Receiving the Byrd Scholarship may affect other financial aid awards.**

CALIFORNIA RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS (FOR APPLICATION QUESTION #10)

If you are an unmarried student who will not be 18 by the time you file the FAFSA, your residency status is based on the residency of the parent or non-parent adult responsible for your direct care and control. To qualify, the non-parent adult must have had continuous direct care of and control over you for at least two years prior to the application deadline.

If you are an unmarried student under age 18, you're a legal California resident if either:

- A parent has been a legal California resident for one year immediately prior to the application deadline.
- You have lived for two years with a responsible non-parent adult and that adult has been a legal California resident for at least one year immediately prior to the application deadline.

If your parents are living overseas, you are considered a California resident if you are a minor and have been living under the direct care and control of a California resident for at least two years as of the application deadline, or if your parents have maintained their California residency during their absence from the state.

Married students, regardless of their age, and all unmarried students 18 or older, must establish their own residency. If you are 18 when you apply for the Byrd Scholarship, you must have lived in California for at least one year immediately before this date to be considered a California resident. You also must be in the United States legally and be able to establish U.S. residency based on your status with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA INFORMATION PRACTICES ACT OF 1977 AND USE OF YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

State and federal laws protect an individual's right to privacy regarding information pertaining to oneself. The California Information Practices Act of 1977 requires the following information be provided to financial aid applicants who are asked to supply information about themselves. The principal purpose for requesting information on this form is to determine your eligibility for financial aid. Commission policy and the policies of the postsecondary institutions to which you are applying for aid authorize maintenance of this information. Furnishing information that is requested on this form is mandatory. Failure to provide such information will delay and may even prevent your receipt of financial assistance. This form's information may be transmitted to the other state and federal agencies if required by law. Individuals have the right of access to records established from information furnished on this form as it pertains to them. The Education Code of the State of California gives the Commission the authority (in consultation with postsecondary institutions) to make this form available. The officials responsible for maintaining the information contained on this form are the Executive Director of the Commission and the financial aid administrators at the institutions to which you are applying for financial aid.

Your Social Security number is used to verify your identity under record-keeping systems established prior to January 1, 1975, pursuant to authority of the Commission, the California State University and California Community Colleges contained in Title 5, California Administrative Code, Section 41201, and the authority of the Regents of the University of California under Article IX, Section 9, of the California Constitution.

The Commission and California public postsecondary education institutions, in compliance with federal statutes and the Equal Protection Clause of the California Constitution, do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or physical disability in any of their policies, procedures, or practices. Inquiries regarding these policies may be directed to the Commission and to the financial aid office of the school or college to which you are applying for aid.

For additional information, please contact the Commission's Specialized Programs Operations Branch at (888) 224-7268, option 3.